
The DX Bulletin

ISSUE 187 APRIL 25, 1983

TWO AMATEURS DEAD IN SPRATLY ATTEMPT; VIET NAM BLAMED

Wednesday, April 20, 1983

THE WORST FEARS of radio amateurs around the world were confirmed today, with official word that two of their fraternity have been killed in the South China Sea. Gero Band, DJ3NG, and Diethelm Mueller, DJ4EI, have perished in an attempt to operate amateur radio from the Spratly Islands. Expedition member Baldur Drobnica, DJ6SI, was reportedly wounded in the attack on their sailing vessel. Others on the "Siddhartha," Norbert Willand, DF6FK, owner Peter Marx, and his wife Jenny Toh, were apparently unharmed.

The unarmed Siddhartha, enroute to an unoccupied reef in the Spratly group, was fired upon by Vietnamese from Amboyna Cay, an island only a few hundred meters in diameter, located near the main Spratly island. The Siddhartha sank almost immediately, with Diethelm Mueller already dead of gunshot wounds. The attack occurred on Sunday, April 10, following which the group drifted for ten days in a dinghy.



Amboyna Cay (April, 1979)

Following three unsuccessful air searches for the dinghy, by the Siddhartha's owners, a Maritime Alert was issued to all vessels in the region. On Tuesday, April 19, the Freighter Linden, out of Japan (Panamanian registry) found the dinghy. It had drifted some 350 km from the point of attack near

Amboyna Cay. Gero Band, DJ3NG, succumbed on April 17, aboard the dinghy, reportedly of starvation. The Linden was due to land in Hong Kong with the survivors on April 22.

The Associated Press news service carried a story on the situation April 15, but it was picked up by very few newspapers in the U.S. Their sources, Philippine amateur operator Klaus Ziller, and German Embassy (Manila) first secretary Jorg Zimmerman, gave the same story as reported in TDXB Issue 186 (April 18). Zimmerman stated that West Germany had "notified all five governments of a radio transmission Sunday (Apr 10) that said the Siddhartha had been attacked and ended with a man's voice yelling 'Fire on board! Fire on board.'" The AP also attributed the stepped-up search for the Siddhartha to distress signals heard on the amateur 20-Meter band on Thursday, April 14.

According to the AP story, Vietnam "first wanted assurances the boat did not carry a political group, and then promised not to interfere with the rescue attempt." There is no indication of why the Vietnamese on Amboyna Cay did not rescue the survivors themselves. Very late word to TDXB indicates that the Vietnamese shelling was extensive, as all six persons aboard the Siddhartha were injured to some extent. They were cast adrift with neither food nor water.

Finally, as for the future DXCC status of Spratly and associated islands in the South China Sea, there has been talk for some time of not counting (for Spratly credit) the associated islands which are controlled by countries other than Viet Nam (which controls Spratly). It is expected that this talk will continue, at a stepped-up pace.

POSTSCRIPT: an AP wire story came in at 1517Z April 20. Please send TDXB a copy if your local newspaper carries it.

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4 rescued from sea

HONG KONG (AP) — A freighter rescued four wounded people from a dinghy in the South China Sea, 10 days after they radioed that their yacht was attacked, the freighter's captain said today.

Two West Germans who also had been aboard the yacht died, according to captain, who said one was killed during the attack and the other died later from wounds.

"They drifted for 10 days without food and water and they were very weak and dehydrated," the captain of the freighter Linden said in a radio-telephone interview from Hong Kong. "They are sleeping and they need rest."

Capt. Tadashi Inose said the survivors, three West Germans and a Singaporean, were in "not too serious condition" aboard the Panamanian-registered freighter which picked them up midway between Vietnam and Borneo just before sunset Tuesday. The Linden was en route from Saudi Arabia to Hong Kong, where it was scheduled to arrive Friday.

Inose said the survivors told him the two other West Germans aboard the yacht Siddhartha died as a result of an attack near Amboyna Cay, one of the Spratly Islands, on April 10. They were believed to be Gero Band and Diethelm Muller, who were aboard the yacht when it left Singapore April 9, but who were not among the survivors.

The captain identified the survivors as the yacht's captain, Peter Marx; his Singaporean wife, Jenny Toh Swee Neo; Balour Drobnica; and Norbert Willaud.

PROPAGATION: Apr 24, 25, Below Normal; Apr 26, 27, Low Normal; Apr 28 - May 2, Low Normal; May 3, 4, Below Normal; May 5, Disturbed; May 6-9, Low Normal; May 10, 11, Below Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Date	Flux (83)	Alpha (83)	K (83)
258	157	4/14	111	27	4
257	151	4/15	103	31	4
248	147	4/16	104	24	4
241	147	4/17	113	17	3
227	146	4/18	120	11	3
215	144	4/19	124	11	2



SPRATLY 1979

CHINA: In Issue 185 it was mentioned that the People's Republic of China has cancelled "cultural exchange" programs with the United States for the rest of 1983, in retaliation for the U.S.'s granting of political asylum to woman tennis player Hu Na. We have now learned that the All China Sports Federation has also announced that "PRC contestants would not participate in any sports activities in the U.S. in 1983." As amateur radio is considered a "sport," it is now questionable whether BY1PK and BY8AA will be affected. Neither station has been reported on the bands since March 30, and the output of QSLs from them has dropped off to nearly nothing the past few weeks.

HEARD ISLAND: Jim Smith, VK9NS, leader of the VKØJS operation, phoned TDXB on April 20, to advise he was leaving for the U.S. He will be at both the Visalia and Dayton Conventions, to refute charges of the VK6 DX Chasers (VKØHI). Those charges were published in TDXB # 183.

QSL cards from Smith's group have been hitting the mails for several weeks now. No QSLs have come from the VKØHI/VKØCW operation, and neither the IDXF nor the NCDXF has published a newsletter or press release since the February Heard Island operation which they co-sponsored.

SPEAKING OF VISALIA and the "International DX Convention" this weekend, here's a final round-up of attendees: Martti Laine, OH2BH (OHØW contest report); Tom Taormina, K5RC (on big contest stations); Jay O'Brien, W6GO (co-publisher of the W6GO/K6HHD QSL List); JALBK (on his BY1PK visit); Al Fischer, K8CW/VKØCW (Heard Island 1983); Jim Smith, VK9NS/VKØJS (also Heard Island 1983); Eric Sjolund, SMØAGD (1982 Pacific expedition); Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and Iris Colvin, W6QL (YASME Africa/Asia 1982-83, see TDXB 186); Phil Weaver, VS6CT (Hong Kong/Macao Pictorial Essay); plus the usual ARRL and club dignitaries. TDXB will be there in spirit!

Pictured above are K4SMX, K1MM, and VK2BJL, on a reef just a few miles from Spratly's Amboyna Cay, in April, 1979. They had approached Amboyna Cay a few days earlier (see photo page one), been fired at, and they returned to the mainland to reconnoiter. At that point, team members N200 and N4WW decided not to return for another try. The three remaining team members set out on VK2BJL's yacht, the "Banyanda," and subsequently operated for about three days from the reef.

K4YT Report

Indonesia, April 10

WAS ON from 9N1MM a few weeks ago but propagation was lousy. I did work many Europeans on 40 Meters. Was all set to work the CQ WPX (SSB) from 4S7EA's house but the Ministry of Defense rejected my request for a call.

I went to a meeting of the radio club in Bangkok, and got a feel for the politics involved in the recent silencing of HS amateur stations. They should be on the air again soon. The club has asked to be allowed to sign HSØHS in the All Asia Contest in June. (Ed Note: TDXB reported earlier that HS stations had been ordered off the air around the time of Thailand's general elections).

Here in Indonesia, I've been operating from the station of YBØACP (K6DLV). Phil will take skeds for 40/80 Meters if you ask him on 20. He's also trying to get the government to drop the "resident i.d. requirement" for a YBØ call. You'll know he was successful when you hear K4YT/YBØ.

Next stops Singapore (ended 4/21), then DUL 4/21-4/26, Hong Kong until 4/27, and on into China. And I'm scheduled back in Africa this summer.

THE W6GO/K6HHD LIST
PO BOX 700
RIO LINDA, CA 95673

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BANDPASS: Call/Frequency/UTC (plus West, Central, East Coast report)/Date

EA4LH/	JALCGM 3505 11E 12	UI8ADQ 14033 01E 12	5T5RY 14206 01C 15
CE3 21275 00E 17	JT1AO 14226 03W 16	UI8OK 7001 00E 15	5W1EB 14202 03E 14
CE0ZAD 21345 00E 10	KC6IN 14211 13C 11	VK9ND 14202 12E 15	5W1EB 14211 12E 14
CE0ERY 14209 03E 13	(E. Carolines)	VK9NS 14218 12E 16	5Z4DR 21030 19E 14
CN8BK 14031 00E 16	KH0AC 14225 03W 16	VQ9CI 14205 12C 11	5Z4DR 14029 23E 15
CN8MT 28552 14E 17	PA0ATA/	VS5HG 14213 15W 16	5Z4DR 21291 19E 17
CT3DJ 14034 23E 10	LX 14024 14E 10	VU2UGI 14225 04W 17	6W8FZ 14216 22C 14
CT3CP 14019 22E 13	LX1DA 21032 16W 10	VU2UGI 14202 12E 18	7X2LS 21355 19E 10
CT3DJ 7011 01E 15	MIX 7007 00E 10	YB3CD 14213 15W 16	8Q7AV 14209 12C 12
EA8JE 28052 14E 17	OD5NT 14215 01E 12	ZC4BI 14022 21E 9	9H4P 21076 13E 13
EA8AER 14016 10E 18	OH0PA 14016 14E 16	ZD7BW 21276 21W 16	9J2LL 14035 21E 10
EA9JG 28046 16E 10	OY2J 14026 23E 10	ZK1CG 21345 00E 10	9J2BO 21026 19C 13
EA9GK 14019 00E 13	OY7ML 14027 15E 10	ZK1DX 14004 03E 13	9V1VP 14008 12E 9
EL2AD 21315 12E 13	OX5JM 14015 15E 10	ZL1ANJ 28520 14E 17	9V1TL 14018 11E 9
FB8WI 14019 13E 15	PJ8II 14024 19C 13	ZP5CD 28023 22E 9	
FB8WI 14013 13C 16	PZ9AB 14007 22E 10	ZP5CPE 28573 13E 17	Mail reports to
FB8WI 14026 13E 18	PZ1DV 14020 11E 15	3B8CF 3505 03E 10	reach Vernon by
FB8ZP 14217 13E 10	PZ1DV 7003 09E 20	3B8CF 7005 03E 10	Wednesday, or phone
FB8ZQ 14214 13E 15	G4ABI/	3B8FK 14034 03E 12	
FB8ZQ 14013 02E 18	ST2 21016 21E 16	3B8FG 14027 03E 13	203-871-7699 anytime.
FC8TT 7003 03E 10	TL8GE 14202 03E 13	3B8CF 14241 12C 16	
FM7WU 3506 00E 10	TR8DR 21025 22C 10	3B9DA 14209 12C 11	Best contributor of
FO8GM 14011 11E 15	TR8JLD 21072 13E 13	3B9DA 14208 13C 16	information each
FR7BP 21031 14E 10	TU2JL 14238 04E 13	4K1B 14023 03E 13	month wins a free
GU2FMF 14028 11E 12	UF6FFF 14019 15E 10	4S7EA 14210 12E 12	year of TDXB!
HK0BKX 14025 13E 13	UG6GDS 14019 22E 9	4S7EA 14216 12E 18	
HK0BKX 14017 12E 17	UL7JCX 14026 03E 10	5B4MN 3505 00E 10	
HL9TH 14230 14W 17	UI8ADQ 14033 01E 12	5H3BC 14227 14E 10	

DX CALL

QSL TO

K3UOC/PJ5

K3UOC

XE2EBE

AA6DP

A35XX

DJ0FX

K3UOC/PJ6

K3UOC

XF0MDX

XE1MDX

A71BJ

G4HNP

K4LTA/V2A

K4LTA

XO7EOQ

VE7DLO

BY8AA

BY1PK

K7NHV/VP2V

K7NHV

XT2AW

KN1DPS

CE0AE

WA3HUP

NP4A

W3HNK

XT2BM

WD4RHL

CN8CO

WB3KGY

N0ZO/DU2

K0LST

YB5AES

W4BBP

CN8CX

K4CEB

OD5LX

SM0DJZ

ZB2EO

K3MNV

CP6EL

WB1DQC

ON5UM/LX

ON5UM

ZD7CW

N4CID

CR1CBU

CT1CBU

PY0ZSD

DA2ZH

ZD8DX

W4MJZ

CR9FE

KL7IHP

PY0ZSF

DA2ZH

ZD9BZ

KALDE

CR9Z

NOT:JALELY

PY0ZSG

DK9KX

ZF2GT

WA0KNF

CX7BY

W0IJN

TJ1GH

DJ5RT

ZF2GV

W2HPF

C31NP

EA3BNX

TR8JD

F6AJA

ZL1AMO/C

ZL1AMO

DL1JW/HP1

DL1KB

TU2HJ

W3HNK

Z21GN

NY4X

EA8ZI

SM5IWC

TU2LS

K3GYD

3B9DA

3B8DA

EA9KF

EA9IE

T30AT

G3XZF

3D6AK

G3WPF

EW2A

UK2AAB

T32AB

N7YL

4K1D

UA1AFM

FB8ZP

F6KNO

UA1PAO

UK1OAA

4N9WG

YU4GYZ

FB8ZQ

F6GXB

VE1CBK/1

VE1AJH

5H3BH

SM0EAI

FM0HOR

K6YRA

VK2WU

WA2BFW

5Z4MX

SM3CXS

HC8GI

W3HNK

VK9YB

KB9UV

5Z4WL

DL3WL

HH2VP

W1FJ

VK9YC

KB9UV

6Y5IC

G3XTJ

HI8RAU

WB2LCH

VP2EH

KC5EA

7X4AN

DJ2BW

HZ1AB

K8PYD

VP2ES

K8CV

9J2BO

W6ORD

IO2PJA

I2PJA

VP2KBD

K1IJV

9J2TY

JH3DPB

JT1AN

W7PHO

VP2KBE

K1IJV

9K2BE

G4GIR

JT1BG

W7PHO

VP2M

WB2LCH

9K2QL

YASME

J28AZ

I8JN

VP2MKD

N0DH

9M6YY

K5YY

J6LT

NOT:WB2LCH

VP2MM

AB1U

9Q5JE

DJ5TY

J73DF

N4CRU

VP2VCN

KP4EBQ

9Y4RD/ST0

KA2DDJ

KC6IN

JA6BSM

VP2VGI

KP4EBQ

KC6SZ

JA6BSM

VP5ARX

W8UVZ

DX CALL

QTH INFORMATION

KC7UU/5N6

K6EDV

VP5FX

K4UEE

A92P

P.O. Box 14, Manama, Bahrain

KJ8G/J6L

KJ8G

VP5LDX

WB8LDH

BV2B

Box 30-547, Taipei, Taiwan

KJ8G/8P6

KJ8G

VP8AQU

K0JW

CM2NT

PO Box 3012, Havana 3, Cuba

KP4AM

W7PHO

VP9AD

W3HNK

CT3DJ

Box 742, Funchal

KR4C/V2A

KR4C

VQ9CI

KE4OC

D44BC

POB 36, Mindelo, Cape Verde

KX6OA

K6DSI

VS5YY

K5YY

EL2P

Box 1929, Monrovia

K0TT/KH0

K0TT

VS6DO

K4CIA

FM7CL

PO Box 1119, Fort de France 97209

K1BJ/3B8

K1BJ

V2AXA

K4LTA

FY7CH

Box 642, Cayenne

CALENDAR

China No BY1PK/BY8AA since Mar 30
 Trindade PY1EFM/PY0T still on; Issues 180, 181
 Rodrigues 3B9DA now says will be active until June
 Crozet FB8WI almost every day, 14020, 1300Z
 Eq Guinea Still looking for F6BBJ/3C1 anytime

Ogasawara By KC2HQ, JR1YGP, end of April
 Hamvention Dayton, last weekend of April
 Macao CR9T by WA4IKZ, May 2-8; I 181
 W6AM Visitor's Day June 16

FINAL NOTE: You will probably receive your 1983
TDXB Countries-Needed Survey sheet with next week's
 issue. It will come in an envelope, and be sure
 to take a look at the envelope, because we plan
 to put the month/year your subscription expires on
 the envelope somewhere. At that time we will be
 suggesting you consider sending a check for another
 year, to save us the expense of some renewal notices.

CONTRIBUTORS

PLEASE NOTE: TDXB has received
twenty-two phone calls on Apr
 20 alone; if we do not list your
 call sign below, it is entirely
 unintentional, and we apologize.

KA1BU, KH6BZF, K6HHD, K4YT,
 K3ZO, K1ZZ, W3AZD, W1HZ, K1JX,
 WB1AVA, K4SMX, AB8K, W0BW, K6IR,
 K3MRT, W7HRD, K1NH, K8EM, K1XM,
 WD5AAM, KA1BE, XE1NI, W0JRN,
 W4VQ, WB8ZRL, W1DQH, K4CEF,
 K4BAI, WD8QVD, WB4LFM, W6HXW,
 W0YDB

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